

hackneytoday

Circulated to 108,000 homes and businesses by Hackney Council

Issue 446 11 March 2019

Rising to the challenge

2019/20 Budget



Your guide to Council Tax, how we spend your money and some of the services you can expect from your Council in 2019/20

inside

5



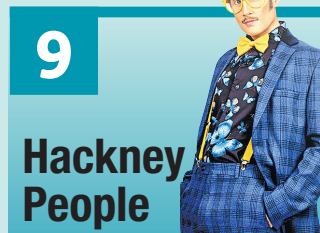
Better renting

6



Project 50-50

9



Hackney People

13



Listings pull-out

14

WIN

Tickets to see Nish Kumar

21



Hackney Archives

 Hackney

Protecting frontline services in the face of challenging Government cuts



WATCH a video from the Mayor of Hackney about the Council's priorities for the year ahead at www.hackney.gov.uk/budget



AT a meeting on 27 February, councillors approved our budget for 2019/20. It's my third as Mayor and it's getting more and more challenging each year.

My priority will always be to protect frontline services and the things you tell us your value, but with continued Government cuts, that's getting harder all the time. While Ministers might like using the soundbite 'austerity is over', on the ground, in public services and local government, that is simply not true.

Since 2010, Government has cut our core funding by £140m – that's about half.

It is planning to cut another £30m by 2022. Our overall spending power has been cut by £529 per person – that's the highest cut in London. In the meantime, demand for services is increasing all the time.

This year sees us come to the end of a three-year funding period.

We made difficult decisions early on, which means that this year there are no headline savings and we continue to protect vital frontline services.

Over the years we've managed the huge financial challenge by, among other things, reducing management and back

office staff, investing in services to reduce costs in the long term, bringing services back in-house and renegotiating contracts.

After a decade-long freeze, we also had to start increasing Council Tax from 2016, and this year the Hackney Council part of your Council Tax will increase by 4.99 % (including 2 % for Adult Social Care). Whilst a difficult decision, this is less than £1 a week for most households.

But we've still got more to do.

To put this in context, increasing Council Tax will raise an extra £3.8m a year – just 13 % of the savings we need to make.

Over the next few years, we will have further difficult decisions to make, but our priority will always be to protect frontline services and make sure we can look after our most vulnerable residents.

Despite the ongoing pressures, this year's budget is ambitious and sees us invest in the things that you tell us matter to you.

By investing now, we are investing in the future, to build more resilient, supportive communities so fewer people need to rely on our services as financial pressures continue to grow in the years ahead.

We'll also continue doing those things you've come to expect – clean streets, outstanding parks and green spaces, and well-maintained libraries.

This is an extremely challenging time for councils up and down the country, and Hackney is no exception.

Over the next three years we will have some hard decisions to make, but I am determined that we should keep our ambitions high, keep on investing in what matters to local people and in making Hackney fairer, safer and more sustainable.

Philip Glanville

Philip Glanville Mayor of Hackney

Key areas we will invest in

WE know that some residents continue to be concerned about the pace at which Hackney is changing, so at the heart of this budget are decisions and investments to make our borough more sustainable and inclusive.

1 £5m turning disused garages into affordable workspaces



2 Building 800 new homes for social rent



In this budget we will be investing £1.5m into our employment service, Hackney Works, to help local people access the opportunities that Hackney's new economy has brought.

This will build on the work we've already done in this area, which has supported more than 4,500 residents into work or training and over 100 residents to start apprenticeships in the Council – three times more than in 2016.

We've also changed our procurement strategy to make sure that more of the money spent by the Council is spent in Hackney, using local businesses and tradespeople wherever possible.

We are standing up for Ridley Road Market and creative businesses in Hackney Wick to protect these important areas.

We are also planning to invest £5m in converting unused Council-owned garages into affordable workspace for local businesses - creating income to support services and new jobs (1).

We are building 800 Council homes for social rent for Hackney residents (2).

“ Since 2010, Government has cut our core funding by £140m – that's about half ”

How Council Tax is calculated

Band	Property Value (1991 Values) £	Hackney Council (Basic amount) £	Greater London Authority (GLA) £	Total Council Tax £
Band A	Up to £40,000	756.23	213.67	969.90
Band B	40,001 - 52,000	882.27	249.29	1131.56
Band C	52,001 - 68,000	1008.31	284.90	1293.21
Band D	68,001 - 88,000	1134.35	320.51	1454.86
Band E	88,001 - 120,000	1386.43	391.73	1778.16
Band F	120,001 - 160,000	1638.51	462.96	2101.47
Band G	160,001 - 320,000	1890.58	534.18	2424.76
Band H	More than 320,000	2268.70	641.02	2909.72




Housing services*
£140m


Sports, parks, libraries and museums
£11m

How the Council spends your money

WE spend our budget on a huge range of vital public services. From social care to leisure centres and children's centres to waste collection. We also use it to support people into work, to maintain our parks and on community safety.



Council Tax Reduction Scheme
£16m



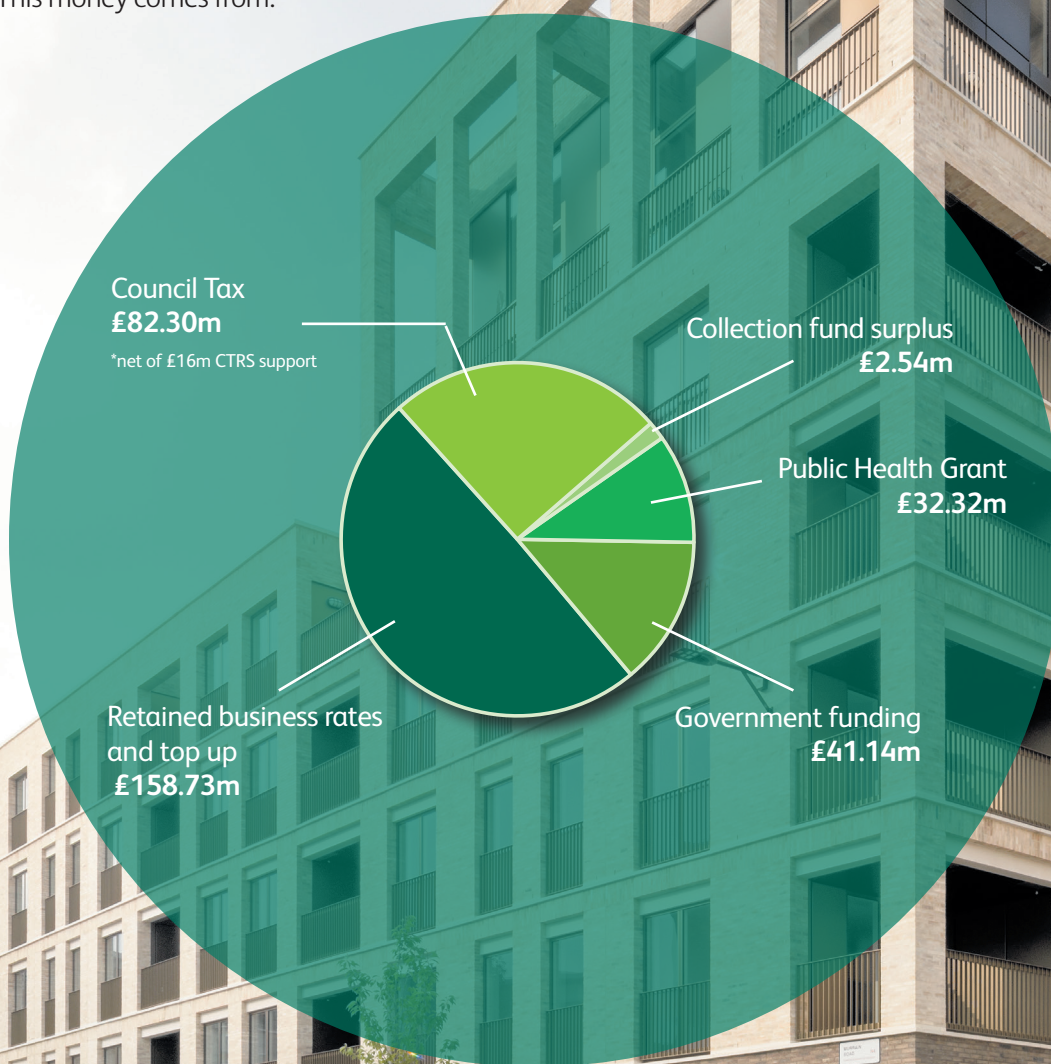
Adult and wellbeing services
£87m



Housing needs
£10m

THE Council's total budget includes funding for education, housing benefits, maintaining our council homes and other money that is ring fenced and cannot be used to fund other services.

The amount of funding we control – our revenue budget – has been reduced again this year, due to ongoing Government cuts. This year the Council will spend £320m on services for you. This money comes from:



3 Net spend on temporary accommodation



Despite this investment, as a result of the housing crisis we still have 13,000 households on our housing waiting list, and over 3,100 in temporary accommodation.

This year we'll spend £13m on temporary accommodation, including a brand new, Council-managed hostel in Hackney for families (3).

We are investing £57m into our Council homes and estates, ensuring that thousands of residents across the borough have the benefit of new and modern roofs, windows, kitchens and bathrooms, as well as ensuring blocks are well-decorated and in good repair. £12m more will also be spent on ensuring homes in blocks meet modern fire safety standards.

We'll invest over £20m in improving our older school buildings, to make sure they are fit for 21st century learning.

By far our biggest area of spend is supporting vulnerable children and adults, through our social care teams. This year we will spend £140m (4).

This includes £9m on youth services, including targeted support and activities for all young people through our Young Hackney hubs, while launching the Young Futures Commission (5).


4 £140m on social care for vulnerable children & adults



5 £9m on youth services



New homes in Kings Crescent estate, N4




Environmental and enforcement services
£7m




Highways, traffic and transport
£4.5m



Waste, recycling and street cleansing
£15m



Public health
£33m



Children and youth services
£74m

Some services receive additional funding from ring-fenced grants. The figures left and above are intended to demonstrate how the Council chooses to invest its revenue funding and are net of specific grants.

Where to find more information

For more information about the Council's budget, the Adult Social Care Precept and what the Council spends on services visit www.hackney.gov.uk/budget or write to: **Council Tax, Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman Street, E8 1DY**

*funded from rents and service charges within HRA

one account

Access Council services online in
one place with One Account.

- Council Tax
- Business rates
- Housing repairs
- Voter registration
- Housing Benefit
- Appointments



Sign up and save time with
your tablet, computer or
smartphone at:
www.hackney.gov.uk

Need support paying your Council Tax?

You may be entitled to support
to help pay your Council
Tax through the Council Tax
Reduction Scheme or the Council
Tax Discretionary Fund.

Working age people can receive an award of up to 83 % of their Council Tax through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This award is means tested and available to those whose income is below an amount set by the Council.

Those who receive support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, but are unable to pay the remaining 17 % of their Council Tax, may be able to get extra help through the Council Tax Discretionary Fund – a pot of money to provide short term assistance to those in financial difficulties.

Those who apply for the fund are also able to access advice around debt and money management.

